

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 585

By Barnes

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the founders, sponsors, volunteers, and participants upon the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Houston County Irish Celebration.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those events that promote local business, entertain and educate our citizens, and celebrate the history and culture of the great State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Houston County Irish Celebration is one such event that is commemorating its fiftieth anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, created out of fractions of Stewart, Humphrey, and Dickson Counties, Houston County was established on January 21, 1871, and named in honor of the legendary general and former governor of Tennessee, Sam Houston; and

WHEREAS, although the first settlers of Houston County were of Scottish and Scot/Irish descent, Irish immigrants arrived soon thereafter with the building of the railroad; and

WHEREAS, overcome by the beautiful and lush green vegetation of the area, the Irish laborers called the little valley "Erin" and wisely decided to make it their home; and

WHEREAS, many years later Dr. O.S. Luton and Mr. Beverly Price were struck with the brilliant idea to celebrate the region's rich Irish heritage and partnered with the Houston County Chamber of Commerce to host the first "Wearing of the Green" on March 16, 1963; and

WHEREAS, expected to draw more than 25,000 attendees, this year's week long celebration will run from March 9-17, 2012, and feature pageants, a parade, an arts and crafts show, a banquet, delectable cuisine, musical entertainment, and a carnival; and

WHEREAS, the much anticipated event will begin with a kick-off breakfast where the most honored Lord High Mayor and Emerald Award Winners will be announced, and it will culminate a week later with a day long celebration of all things Irish; and

WHEREAS, previous Lord High Mayors include: Lucille Clements, Ross Bass, Thomas Kieroy, Dr. O.S. Luton, C.W. Mitchum, Robert Shores, Tom Brewer, Dr. A.J. Mitchum, J.D. Lewis, Billy Alsobrooks, Carl Taylor, Sara Hart, Billy R. Cleghern, Rodney Lowery, Bee Brewer, Webb Mitchum, Harry Batten, Beverly Price, Joe Spencer, Ray Deason, Dr. Joe Morgan, Rev. Bob Mitchell, A.E. Reynolds, Jim Kuykendall, Byde Simpson, Lorene Powers, Phil Averitt, David Hardin, Dr. Douglas Ligon, L.C. Baggett, Paul Moody, Julia cook, Austin Baggett, Dr. Daniel Martin, Marily Price, Linda Bratschi, O.S. Uffelman, Bettye McKinnon, Gary Taylor, William C. Knott, Jr., Ralph Largent, Roland Roby, Randall French, Kathy Parchman, Ray Mobley, Patsy Brooks, Ray Elliott, Diane Lynch, and Donald Cooksey; and

WHEREAS, the Houston County Irish Celebration is certain to be a great success thanks to the sponsorship of the Houston County Chamber of Commerce, as well as the combined efforts of countless organizations and individuals; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the Houston County Irish Celebration and its well-earned recognition bring great pride to the people of Houston County, who every year unite with tireless dedication to celebrate and promote their Irish history with this time-honored event; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the founders, sponsors, volunteers, and participants upon the occasion of the Houston County Irish Celebration's fiftieth anniversary, applaud their dedication to preserving and protecting their rich heritage, and extend to them our best wishes for a safe and enjoyable event.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.